

Welcome



Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital welcomes board-certified cardiologist **Nazar Sharak, D.O.** Dr. Sharak earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale and completed his internal medicine residency at Broward General Medical Center. His cardiology fellowship took place at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. He is board certified by the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and the National

Board of Echocardiology. Sharak credits his experience in the U.S. Army Reserve with helping to steer him toward a medical career. Dr. Sharak is now accepting new patients at CCIRH's Health & Wellness Center.



Back in 2019, when things were "normal," the **Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition** assembled its lineup for the 2020 Dancing With Vero's Stars fundraiser. Though the event was postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19, the dancing teams committed to remain on board until it could be held safely. Now, with preparations for the 2021 DWVS underway, Healthy Start Coalition welcomes a new star dancer, **Stevon "Von" Harvey**, who will join dancing

partner Karren Walter. Despite stepping in a year after his fellow star dancers, Harvey, who is Quail Valley's dining room captain, is up for the challenge.



Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital welcomes board-certified neurosurgeon **Roberto Rey Dios, M.D.**, who earned his medical degree at University of Santiago de Compostela School of Medicine in Spain. He completed his residency in neurosurgery at University of Mississippi Medical Center and his fellowship in advanced training in neurosurgical oncology and skull base surgery at Goodman-Campbell Brain and Spine at Indiana University School of Medicine. Prior to joining CCIRH, Rey Dios served

as an assistant professor of both neurosurgery and radiation oncology at University of Mississippi Medical Center. Dr. Rey Dios is accepting new patients at CCIRH's Health & Wellness Center.



The **Gifford Youth Achievement Center** has welcomed five new board members: **Milo Thornton**, Bureau of Administration major of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office; **Patti Glavin O'Mara**, daughter of GYAC supporters Cis

and Bill Glavin; **Jennifer Moore**, wife (of School District of Indian River County Superintendent David Moore), mother and professional; **Paul Knapp**, a retired executive of an international financial services technology firm; and **Sara Whiting** (not pictured), longtime GYAC volunteer.



Whitehall Professional Property Management is proud to welcome **Jennifer and Michael Sawyer** to its team. It seems fate brought the couple to Whitehall, where they are considered a "dream team." The Sawyers were living in the Bahamas, where they established their own property management company in 2013. In 2019, Hurricane Dorian ravaged their island, destroying

their home as well as most of those they managed. In the ensuing period of uncertainty, the couple journeyed to Florida and eventually made Vero Beach their new home. Their expertise fits in perfectly with Whitehall's services.



The **Cultural Council of Indian River County** welcomes **Ben Earman** as its new executive director, replacing Barbara Hoffman, who retired last year. Earman, who has a B.A. in performing arts from the University of Tampa and an associate degree in education from Indian River State College, brings a wealth of experience and deep roots in the community to the position. He has worked in a number of administrative

positions at local organizations, including Riverside Theatre, the Education Foundation of Indian River County and the Senior Resource Association, and has served on countless local boards and committees. Earman is excited to lead the Cultural Council in its mission of promoting visual, literary and performing arts to enrich the lives of residents and visitors.

MONTH WITH A MISSION

UNITED WAY OF IRC

In October, the United Way of Indian River County's Day of Caring took the form of a Month With a Mission, during which volunteers participated in some creative community enrichment efforts. For example, The Willow School donated nearly 100 pounds of nonperishable items for a local food pantry. Also, United Way staff helped Treasure Coast Food Bank pack more than 10,000 pounds of food for the holidays. Others donated books for United Way's Little Free Libraries, became pen pals with local seniors, or sent thank-you cards to essential workers. Forty youngsters submitted works of sidewalk chalk art for the #ChalkYourWalk competition, which was won by Allena of the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. Her design has been made available as a limited-edition United Way T-shirt.



Allena's chalk-art design became a limited-edition United Way T-shirt.



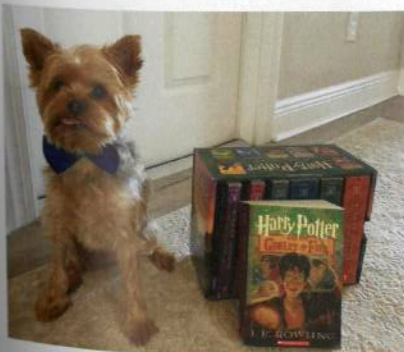
Willow school students gather with their principal, Peter Turner, and the donated food.



Allena works on what will become her winning chalk-art design.



Bob Schlitt, Colleen Dinardi, Jeff Schlitt and Trevor Frederick of Schlitt Insurance Services celebrate Boss Appreciation Day.



Caleb selected his favorite series from a United Way Little Free Library.



Sandy and Allison of Kidz Closet Charities donate a trolley of books.



Louis promotes the United Way's Little Free Libraries.

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION

GIFFORD YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

Participating in a nationwide Lights on Afterschool event in November, Gifford Youth Achievement Center hosted "Students Taking Action: A Virtual Panel Discussion." Panelists included Tony Brown, president of the Indian River County NAACP; Maj. Milo Thornton of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office; Merchon Green, founder of Pioneering Change and chairman of the School District of Indian River County's Equity Committee; and radio host Kevin Browning of 104.5 FM The Flame. Various topics relevant to today's youth were discussed.



The Lights on Afterschool Proclamation by the county commission



Virtual panelists Milo Thornton, Tony Brown and Kevin Browning



Jordan, Allena and Jocelyn



Moderators Jocelyn, Nick Samuel, and Jordan with GYAC students



Curtis Webb, Allena, Jordan, Jocelyn, Nick Samuel and Angelia Perry



A Zoom view of the Lights on Afterschool event